

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (allowed)

8. (Amended) A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:
a seat support disposed generally along a longitudinal axis;
a strapping mechanism operatively attached to the seat support member for operatively attaching the seat support to a tree;
a seat operatively attached to a top portion of the seat support;
a platform operatively pivotally attached to a bottom portion of the seat support, said platform having a top portion for permitting a person to stand thereon;
at least one member operatively attached to the seat support and to the platform to hold the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support;
an upper leveler mechanism operatively attached to said seat support and engageable with said tree for adjusting the position of the seat support between a first position and a second position with respect to the tree, said first position being closer to the tree than the second position thereof; wherein said upper leveler mechanism includes a first and second sleeve and a respective first and second upper stanchion each mounted for selective movement within the respective first and second sleeve, each of the first and second sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second upper stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree;

a locking mechanism for selectively and operatively locking the upper leveler mechanism in a selected one of the first or second positions thereof; and

_____ a lower leveler for operating, at a minimum, as a fulcrum to allow the seat support to pivot at a point against the tree as the upper leveler mechanism is used to adjust the top portion of the seat support closer to or farther from the tree.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Amended) The tree stand of claim 8 including an independent locking mechanism for each sleeve whereby the first stanchion can be in a different locked position with respect to the second stanchion.

11. (Original) The tree stand of claim 8 wherein there is a second member operatively attached to the seat support and to the platform to hold the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The tree stand of claim 10 wherein the independent locking mechanism can be used to lock the first stanchion with respect to the sleeve in more positions than just said first and second positions thereof.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:
a seat support disposed generally along a longitudinal axis;
a strapping mechanism operatively attached to the seat support member for operatively attaching the seat support to a tree;
a seat operatively attached to a top portion of the seat support;
a platform operatively pivotally attached to a bottom portion of the seat support, said platform having a top portion for permitting a person to stand thereon;
at least one member operatively attached to the seat support and to the platform to hold the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support;
a leveler mechanism operatively attached to said seat support and engageable with said tree for adjusting the position of the seat support between a first position and a second position with respect to the tree, said first position being closer to the tree than the second position thereof;

wherein said leveler mechanism includes a first and second sleeve and a respective first and second stanchion each mounted for selective movement within the respective first and second sleeve, each of the first and second sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree;

a locking mechanism for selectively and operatively locking the leveler mechanism in a selected one of the first or second positions thereof; and

a leveler for operating, at a minimum, as a fulcrum to allow the seat support to pivot at a point against the tree as the leveler mechanism is used to adjust the seat support closer to or farther from the tree.

21. (Amended) The tree stand of claim 20 wherein said leveler includes a first and second lower sleeve and a respective first and second lower stanchion each operatively mounted for selective sliding movement with respect to the respective first and second lower sleeve, each of the first and second lower sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second lower stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second lower sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree.

22. (Amended) The tree stand of claim 8 wherein said lower leveler includes a first and second lower sleeve and a respective first and second lower stanchion each operatively

mounted for selective sliding movement with respect to the respective first and second lower sleeve, each of the first and second lower sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second lower stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second lower sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree.

23. Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Amended) The tree stand of claim 20 wherein said lower leveler includes a first and second lower sleeve and a respective first and second lower stanchion each operatively mounted for selective sliding movement with respect to the respective first and second lower sleeve, each of the first and second lower sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second lower stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second lower sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree.